

Transform World Korea Summit IV - 2015

The Education Sphere Report



Participants with Initiative

This is a report to follow up the last breakout sessions for Education Sphere we had at Transform World Korea 2015. The Education discussion sessions this time may be counted as one of the most successful breakout sessions since I served as the facilitator of Education Sphere. This report will explain the preparation, the actual process, and outcome of the sessions and discuss about what to be modified and advanced in the next meeting.

I, as a facilitator of the spheres, have been struggling to see how we can connect our action plan to every participant's daily operation to-do list, since the Transform World Summit at Bali in the year of 2012, in which many educators in Christ gathered around in the medium of the session for the Education Sphere and had wonderful discussions together and came up with a long-paged action plans. Yet, we could not create concerted energy for a momentum to carry out the detailed to-do lists in the action plans. In fact, our to-do lists have to be long by nature because we have to address issues related to all the Seven Challenges. Thus, I admit that we failed to achieve something out of the lists which became a great burden to many participants at the end. Many participants agreed to create the

plans but after they go back home other priorities would pop up continuously. The heavy list of plans remain as a heavy weight at their heart, but they seem to lose a cause and willingness for keeping up.

Thus, upon suggestions made by Knowledge Management Task Force Team, we decided to apply *Appreciative Inquiry* to the session discussions since The Transform World Summit at Macon in the year of 2014. The participants at Education Sphere actively engaged themselves in sharing His dreams in education and how His presence overwhelmed our ministries. The participants also drafted strategies that could transform the education sphere and one of the most important aspects was acknowledging and sharing resources already given by God to empower our ministries in different parts of the world. As I was contemplating on what happened in Macon, I felt that what happened during the education sphere breakout session can have more influence, even after Transform World Summit, in transforming the education sphere, if there is self-driving force or initiative to carry on what happened during the breakout session. Easier said than done, initiative comes from interest, but how can the breakout session bring out more interests from the participating members? A facilitator cannot arrange all agendas that would interest all participants, for it is impossible to comprehend all different mindsets and interests. Even worse, if a facilitator pre-arranges the groups in advance for the sake of efficiency, not all members would be willing to voice up or find interest in the pre-arranged topics. So I felt that tossing the ball to the participants is the best way to draw out interest and initiative. If they can freely bring up agendas and form a group with mutual concern, the participants would have more interest to give more initiative in continuing the self-drafted strategies. Consequently, the participants with initiative will strengthen not only their individual ministry, but reinforce the sphere network to mutually accomplish the outcomes set for Transform World 2020.

For this initiative-driven sphere, two strategies were introduced. The first strategy is to re-employ *Appreciative Inquiry*. When there is an agenda, people usually look at the problematic aspect and discuss methods to resolve the problem. However, people's innate focus on tangible matters over intangible matters can make people ignore God – somewhat intangible and immeasurable being - aspect in an agenda. When this happens, tangible numbers, statistic, data, and methods become more important aspects of discussion, and people fail to see how much God has already done for us. Thus, *Appreciative Inquiry's* emphasis on retelling stories makes the educators in Christ acknowledge God's initiative in education. Through acknowledgement of God's initiative, they encounter Jehovah Jireh, faithful and providing God who always gives enough resources to resolve persisting problems.

The second strategy set to be deployed is called *Open Space Technology*, which focuses on

individuals' initiatives in creating own agendas by opening up the floor to the participants. The key word in *Open Space Technology* is "free," which allows participants to openly and freely engage the breakout session. A facilitator's role is very limited to: introduction, time-keeping, organizing, and providing necessary props. Once the participants are ready to start, they will gather in a circle so that they can share an agenda with all other participants. When the facilitator opens the floor, people freely post an agenda, and the facilitator sorts out similar agendas together. Once the groups are set, members with a mutual interest freely discuss and share concerns and suggestions regarding the common agenda. This strategy believes that freedom can bring out initiative among people.



Sharing Kingdom Advance Stories

After I introduced the breakout session and the order of procedures, Mr. Cedric Lehot started off with his story in Indonesia, focusing on education and community development. Mr. Janto Djaja shared his dream for Indonesia, where church can be a local center for education. Ms. Sajida Iqbal proclaimed how God has been touching the children of Pakistan. After hearing the educators' stories, the participants shared their journey with God and education. Mr. Jay Smith and Dr. Joshua Lingel shared their utilization of the Internet and the media in evangelizing the Muslims and countering an issue of Islamic extremism. From Pakistan and Jordan, Mr. Imran Azhar and Mr. Rami discussed the church's role in educating and building relationships. In Southeast Asia, Ms. Juliette Arulraja and Mr. Alan reported the church's acknowledgment of the rising threat of Islam and how the Muslims are being open toward the gospel. Pastor Mish Mokodeti and Dr. Jacob Kintonsa shared the transformation of women and education policies in Africa. Finally, Ms. Gina Shin and Mr. Peter Han shared education needed by the North Korean defectors and missionary kids. Through *Appreciative Inquiry*, the participants discovered

how God had distributed numerous kinds of resources to different ministries and readily available to share.



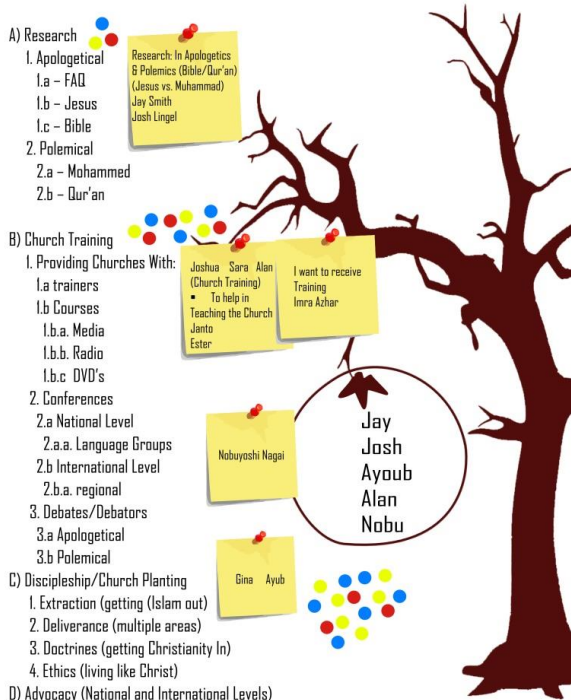
Open Space Technology and Initiative

Dr. David Talley led the second part of the breakout session with *Open Space Technology*. With the introduction of the concept and the procedures of the session, the educators immediately raised up agendas and established five small groups to share and attack the agendas with the people with common interests. After the discussion session, the group members made a poster that can be shared with the whole sphere. However, the purpose of the posters was not just for sharing information, but for opening up an agenda to all

participants to examine what kinds of resources were requested and how the participants can share the resources that they already have. In addition, the posters were used as a voting paper for people to highlight the major points for this sphere to pay special attention.

“Raising Up Christian North Korean Defector Leaders” recognized some difficulties in empowering the refugees and necessity of educating them with the Christian world view. “Young Leadership Training” focused on building relationship with young people. “Provide Quality Education Espousing Christians Values by Developing Standards” acknowledged a need to develop country-specific curriculum, which can be

Training the Trainers To Engage Islam



further contextualized. “Christian Curriculum” addressed a need to identify already available curriculum through networking, which was considered one of the major points of the breakout session. Finally, “Training the Trainers to Engage Islam,” the topic that obtained the most attention, engaged on how the Christians should be dealing with Islam by initiating church training and discipleship that focuses on four ideas: extraction of Islam, deliverance in multiple areas, doctrines to bring Christianity in, and ethics to imitate Christ in life.

Reaction and Conclusion

The mood of the breakout session was quite engaging. The participants were arranged with fellow educators who had similar interests and concerns. This setting made people to actively involve with their group to open up with stories and find solutions that can reinvigorate education in Christ. Nevertheless, number of people in a group was a bit inconsistent. There was an emphasis on Islam and Christian curriculum and less focus on individual country’s education agenda.

After the breakout session, I sent an online survey to ask how the participants felt about the education sphere. I did not receive any negative feedbacks regarding the two strategies (*Appreciative Inquiry, Open Space Technology*). However, some people wanted to have more opportunities for networking, which is one of the key aspects of strengthening the education sphere. They also suggested for a need for a handout that could be handed out to the participants prior to the breakout session. One person suggested if it is possible for the sphere to have more clearly defined subgroups to make the participants to take more initiative. Lastly, one of the members wanted more information about different types of education in different cultures, which can signify the participants’ willingness to import resources that are already being used in other parts of the globe.

As I conclude my report on the education sphere’s breakout session, I would like to sincerely thank all participants who were willing to show their initiative in transforming the education sphere. With our initiatives combined together, it is possible to maintain the continuum set together as the sphere group.

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